

3.1.1. CLASSIFICATION OF CONSONANTS ACCORDING TO THE ACTIVE ORGANS OF SPEECH

According to the active organs of speech consonants are divided into labial, lingual and pharyngal.

Labial. In pronouncing labial consonants the obstruction is formed by the lips.

Labial consonants are subdivided into bilabial and labiodental.

1. **Bilabial.** In articulating bilabial consonants the obstruction is formed by the two lips being brought together.

Examples:

The English [p], [b], [m], [w].

The Ukrainian [П], [Б], [М], [В].

2. **Labiodental.** In pronouncing labiodental consonants the obstruction is formed by the lower lip being pressed against the upper teeth.

Examples:

The English [f], [v].

The Ukrainian [Ф], [В] before [И], [Е].

Lingual. In pronouncing lingual consonants the obstruction is formed by the tongue.

Lingual consonants are divided into forelingual, mediolingual and backlingual.

1. **Forelingual.** In articulating forelingual consonants the obstruction is formed by the front part of the tongue.

Though the active organ of speech is the same (the blade of the tongue) in pronouncing all the forelingual consonants both the shape of the tongue and the place of obstruction differ.

According to the shape of the tongue forelingual consonants are subdivided into apical, dorsal and cacuminal.

- a. **Apical.** In articulating apical forelingual consonants the obstruction is formed by the blade of the tongue, including the tip, against either the upper teeth or the teeth ridge (fig. 3.1).

Fig. 3.1.
Tongue-position characteristic of
an apical consonant



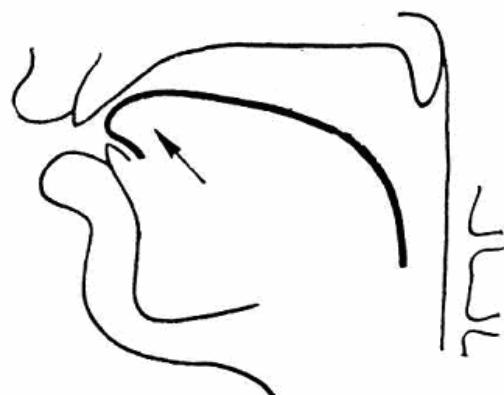
Examples:

The English [T], [D], [t], [d], [n], [l], [s], [z], [S], [Z].

b. **Dorsal.** In articulating dorsal forelingual consonants the obstruction is formed by the blade and the front of the tongue (excluding the tip) against either the upper teeth or the teeth ridge (alveoli).

The tip of the tongue is lowered (fig. 3.2).

Fig. 3.2.
Tongue-position characteristic of
a dorsal consonant



Ukrainian palatalized consonants are dorsal. In English the consonant phonemes [S], [Z], [tS], [dZ] are considered by some scientists to be dorsal.

c. **Cacuminal.** In articulating cacuminal forelingual consonants the obstruction is formed by the tip of the tongue while a spoon-shaped depression is formed in the central part of the tongue.

For cacuminal consonants the tip of the tongue is directed towards (or touches) the front upper teeth, or the alveoli (fig. 3.3).

Examples:

The Ukrainian [Т], [Д], [Н], [С], [З],
[Ш], [Ж], [Р].

The English [r].

Fig. 3.3.



Tongue-position characteristic of a cacuminal consonant

According to the passive organ of speech, that is, to the place of obstruction, forelingual consonants are subdivided into dental and alveolar.

a. **Dental** (which are subdivided into interdental and dental). In articulating forelingual dental consonants the obstruction is formed by the tongue and the back of the teeth, while in pronouncing forelingual interdental consonants the tip and the blade of the tongue are placed between the teeth.

Examples:

The English [T], [D] (interdental or dental).

The Ukrainian [Т], [Д], [Н] (dental).

b. **Alveolar** (which are subdivided into alveolar proper and palato-alveolar).

Alveolar forelingual consonants are articulated by the tip or the front of the tongue against the alveoli.

Examples:

The English [t], [d], [n], [l], [s], [z] (alveolar);

[ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ], [dʒ], [r] (palato-alveolar).

The Ukrainian [C], [З], [Ш], [Ж] (alveolar);

[P], [Ч], [ДЖ] (palato-alveolar).

2. ***Mediolingual***. Mediolingual consonants are articulated by the front of the tongue raised towards the hard palate.

Examples:

The English [j].
The Ukrainian [Ї].

3. ***Backlingual***. Backlingual consonants are articulated by the back of the tongue against the soft palate.

Examples:

The English [k], [g], [N].
The Ukrainian [K], [G], [X], [Γ].

Pharyngal. In pronouncing pharyngal consonants the narrowing is formed in the pharynx which is slightly contracted.

Example:

The English [h].

There are no pharyngal consonants in the Ukrainian language.